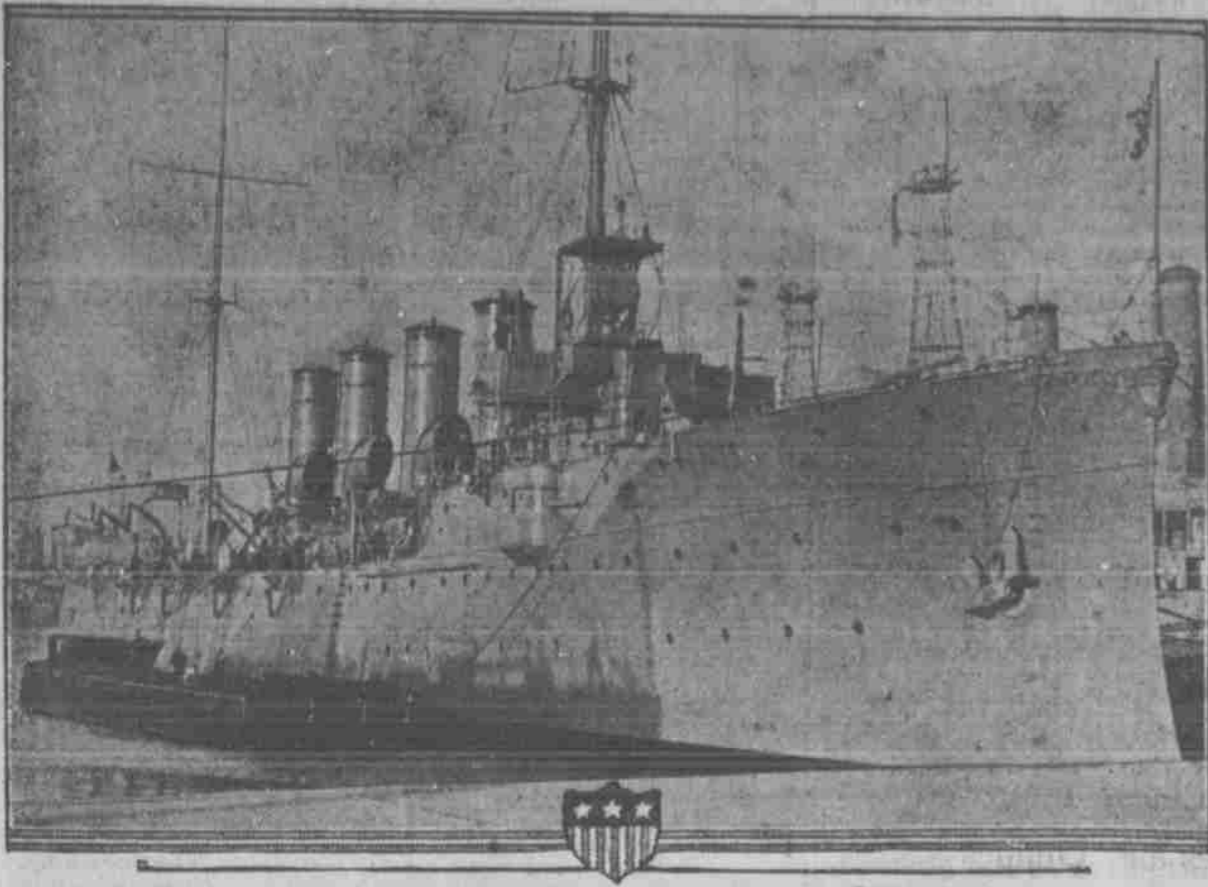


SWIFTEST AMERICAN CRUISER, THE CHESTER



The Cruiser Chester, fastest of its class in the American navy, took part in the shelling and capture of Vera Cruz.

BROTHER TELLS ABOUT FLETCHER

Career of the Rear Admiral Who Took Vera Cruz.

YEARNED FOR SEA WHEN BOY

Forced to Remain at an Executive Desk During the Spanish War, He Became an Expert on Ordnance.

Chicago.—While Admiral Fletcher, who captured the city of Vera Cruz Tuesday, has never resided in Chicago, he has been a frequent visitor here at the home of his brother, Thomas J. Fletcher, 5237 Cornell avenue. The latter is treasurer of the Co-operative League of Chicago. J. Fletcher, a son of the Chicago Fletcher, is a lieutenant on Admiral Fletcher's flagship.

"We Fletchers do not come of a seafaring breed," said the civilian Fletcher at his home. "On the contrary, we are Iowa men and we should by all rights have lived and died landlubbers. My brother is an admiral now because our representative in congress in Marshalltown, Iowa, decided he would fill a vacancy at Annapolis by holding a competitive examination. "Tom," said my brother when he saw the notice of the examination, "I'm going to be a sailor. That's the life for me. I never thought of it before, but I see now that I was meant to be a hero of the deep."

Leads in Examination. He entered the examination, just as he said he would, and took first place over 25 other boys. That was in 1870 and he has been in the navy service since.

According to the Chicago Fletcher, it was one of the bitterest disappointments of the admiral's career when he was compelled to remain at an executive desk in Washington during the Spanish war. But the admiral, as the result of that experience, became an expert on ordnance.

"Secretary Long promised him that if he would remain as assistant chief of the ordnance department until he could get things in order, he could have anything he wished. But before his work was done there the war was over. You see, the country was totally unprepared for war and the ordnance department was placed under a terrific strain."

Invents Recoil Apparatus.

Admiral Fletcher had been in the service but a short time when he invented a recoil apparatus for quick firing, which has been in use ever since. He also improved the Farcot breech mechanism, thereby insuring the success of the system. Whereas to open the breech of the big guns it had been necessary before to depend upon power from the engine-room, the admiral's improvement made it possible to move the huge blocks with one hand. As commander of the torpedo boat Cushing the admiral, then Lieutenant Commander Fletcher, conducted an investigation of the behavior of torpedoes and discovered many errors in range and in almost every instance the correctness of his deductions was proved. He is regarded as one of the first ordnance experts of the navy.

Born in Oskaloosa.

"Admiral Fletcher," said his kinsman in Chicago, "was born in Oskaloosa, Nov. 23, 1855. He was only fifteen years old when he took the examination and entered Annapolis."

"My brother was graduated in June, 1875, one of the honor men of his class. He served as a midshipman for one year and then was promoted to the rank of an ensign. On April 1, 1882, he became a junior lieutenant,

and at the outbreak of the Spanish war was a lieutenant and had attracted attention by his knowledge of ordnance.

"After the war he was relieved of desk work at Washington and ordered to sea. In March, 1904, he was promoted to the rank of commander after having served as commanding officer of the gunboats Kanawha and Eagle. Soon after this promotion he was made inspector of ordnance in charge of the torpedo station at Newport, where he served until March 15, 1905.

"When he again went to sea it was as chief of staff of the Asiatic fleet, which position he gave up to take command of the cruiser Raleigh. After two more years at sea he was ordered to the naval war college at Newport, and later he became a member of the special ordnance board.

"In 1908 he was made a captain and given command of the battleship Vermont. After leaving the Vermont he became an aid on the staff of Secretary of the Navy George von L. Meyer. It was during this service in October, 1911, that he achieved flag rank."

May Succeed Badger.

Admiral Fletcher is regarded as a probable successor of Rear Admiral Badger as commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, a promotion that will carry with it the honor of commanding the great United States fleet that will be the first to pass through the Panama canal when the waterway is opened to the ships of the world in 1915.

It was immediately following the assassination of President Madero that Admiral Fletcher was ordered to Mexican waters.

Enters Harbor in "Nortner."

It will be recalled that Admiral Fletcher in his first cablegram recording the seizure of the custom-house at Vera Cruz said that he commenced operations in the face of an approaching "nortner."

The following extract from a navy text-book on navigation may explain why Admiral Fletcher acted without undue delay in carrying out President Wilson's orders:

"To attempt to run into the harbor (Vera Cruz) in a 'nortner' is extremely perilous, for it blows more powerfully within than without the shoals. No confidence can be placed in anchors and no assistance can be given from the shore in case of accident."

Admiral Fletcher when not at sea resides at 1441 Massachusetts avenue, Washington. He married Miss Susan Hunt Stetson in 1895. He is a member of the Chevy Chase and the Army and Navy clubs in Washington.

How Seizure Order Was Given.

Washington.—The story of how President Wilson ordered the custom-house at Vera Cruz to be seized has been revealed.

The president had gone to bed Monday night after having read his message to congress. The senate was debating the joint resolution to approve the use of the army and navy, and the president had determined to withhold action until the resolution passed, although feeling that in an emergency the executive had ample authority to act.

At 4 o'clock Tuesday morning Secretary Bryan received a cablegram from Consul Canada telling of the approach of a German vessel with a tremendous cargo of ammunition for Huerta.

A number of locomotives and many cars were in readiness to rush the arms to Mexico City.

Mr. Bryan telephoned Secretary Tumulty, who decided to awaken the president. He telephoned the White House. The servants were timid, but Tumulty insisted. Finally the president came to the telephone, and while Secretary Tumulty was explaining the situation Secretary Daniels called up and was put on the same line.

He, too, had a dispatch about the ammunition. Rear Admiral Fletcher had sent a wireless that 15,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 250 machine guns would be landed from the German vessel by noon that day.

The president listened in silence.

"What shall we do?" asked Secretary Daniels.

"Tell Fletcher to seize the custom-house," replied the president without hesitation.

"Good night," said the secretary. The telephone conference ended and in a few minutes wireless dispatches were on their way to Rear Admiral Fletcher. He received the message at 10 a. m. and an hour later American marines had landed and taken possession of the custom house.

No War Tax for Six Months.

Washington.—The government's finances are considered to be in excellent condition. The treasury officials informed the house leaders that there will be no occasion for six months, at least, to worry about raising a war revenue.

Chairman Underwood of the ways and means committee said:

"No plans are being considered for raising a war fund. I have consulted with the secretary of war and the secretary of the navy and they both assure me that the current appropriations for the army and navy will be sufficient for the present needs. Secretary Daniels told me that it would cost no more to maintain the navy and the marine corps in Mexican waters than in the waters of the United States."

"If we are forced into a prolonged war with Mexico, which I do not believe will happen, we can easily arrange to raise the revenue necessary to finance it by the same measures as were taken during the Spanish-American war. The extraordinary taxes then imposed increased the revenues of the government approximately \$100,000,000 a year, and the same taxes applied today would yield even a larger return."

There was talk of a new issue of \$200,000,000 of bonds out of the authorized issue of \$240,000,000 Panama canal bonds, which are still in the treasury, but Secretary McAdoo authorized the statement that no such action was planned. The bonds are available at any time and can be issued at the pleasure of the president without any further action by congress.

It was pointed out that President Wilson has authority under a section of the Payne-Aldrich act of 1909, which has not been repealed by the Underwood tariff act, to raise \$450,000,000 from bond issues, if necessary, to defray the expenses of war. Under section 39 of the Payne-Aldrich act, the secretary of the treasury can use \$250,000,000 of the bonds "to recoup the treasury for moneys used in the building of the Panama canal," which have never been issued.

Wilson Could Raise \$200,000,000. Under section 40, also, the secretary can issue 3 per cent bonds up to \$200,000,000, it being specified that he may take such action if he deems it necessary. The section of the law permitting the secretary of the treasury to raise \$200,000,000 for emergencies, reads as follows:

"That section 32 of the act providing ways and means to meet war expenditures, approved June 31, 1898 (the so-called Spanish war stamp act), be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"That the secretary of the treasury is authorized to borrow from time to time at a rate of interest not exceeding 3 per centum per annum, such sum or sums as, in his judgment, may be necessary to meet public expenditures, and to issue therefor certificates of indebtedness in such form as he may prescribe and in denominations of \$50 or multiples thereof, and each certificate shall be payable with the interest accrued thereon at such time, not exceeding one year from the date of issue, as the secretary of the treasury may prescribe; provided, that the sum of such certificates outstanding shall at no time exceed \$200,000,000 and the provisions of existing law respecting counterfeiting and other fraudulent practices are hereby extended to the bonds and certificates of indebtedness authorized by this act."

GRAPHIC STORY OF VERA CRUZ

Capture of Mexican City After Two Days' Fight Presents Vivid Picture.

VALOR OF OUR BLUEJACKETS

Warships Shelled Buildings in Which Mexican "Snipers" Had Taken Refuge—Natives Surprised at Courtesy of American Troops.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 24.—Twelve Americans were killed and thirty wounded before the city of Vera Cruz came into the undisputed possession of the American invading forces after a two-day fight. Although the Mexicans suffered more severely, the number of their casualties has not been ascertained. The best estimates obtained by Capt. William R. Rush of the battleship Florida indicated that in the engagements of Tuesday and Wednesday their dead numbered about one hundred and fifty. No person knows how many Mexicans fell wounded, as many of them were taken away and hidden by friends.

In the streets about the plaza Wednesday afternoon lay fifteen or twenty bodies, a majority of them attired in citizen's clothing. Some of the men evidently had been dead since the engagement Tuesday and the tropical heat made their immediate disposal imperative. One of the first orders given after the town had been captured was to bury the Mexican dead in a trench at the sea end of one of the streets leading from the plaza.

Scores Are Taken Prisoners.

When the city was taken the order was given to advance carefully and search every building for men bearing arms. Scores of prisoners were taken, the majority of them protesting volubly—many hysterically—that they were not guilty of any unfriendliness toward the Americans. Accustomed to the Mexicans are to seeing their own contending forces shoot immediately all prisoners taken, the captured men could not but believe that they would receive no less drastic treatment at the hands of the Americans. The guns found in houses were thrown by the marines and bluejackets from the upper balconies to the pavement below.

The most spirited action was the taking of the naval academy. Aside from that fight, no definite, organized opposition was encountered by the Americans. A hot fire was poured from the naval college, but a few well directed shots from the cruisers Chester, San Francisco and Prairie tore gaping holes in the stone walls and silenced the rifle fire of the Mexicans inside. The bluejackets then were enabled to proceed with the task they had in hand.

Escape From Fight Cut Off.

Despite the shelling it had received Tuesday, a squad of soldiers continued to give considerable trouble to the Americans from the battered Benito Juarez tower. After they had been silenced and removed from the tower it was discovered that the soldiers had continued fighting for lack of ability to do anything else. The shells from the warships Tuesday had torn away the stairway in the tower and the men had been compelled to remain in it.

Appeal From Aged Mexican.

Coinciding with the orders for the general advance of the Americans an aged, white-haired Mexican, carrying the white flag of truce, came down a street from the center of the city. He carried a letter to the chief of police, the only authority he hoped to reach, and desired Consul Granada to read it. It was an urgent appeal to the chief of police to call off the snipers and prevent the bombardment he believed would follow if they continued their execution.

Even before the messenger had climbed the stairs into the consul's office Capt. Rush was informed of the contents of the note he bore and immediately sounded "cease firing" and "halt." But it was too late. The action had been begun all along the line and it was not considered wise to attempt further measures to stop it. The commanders ordered their men forward at double quick, which they carried out with a vigor that afterward gave them the city.

Evidence of War.

Blood-spattered sidewalks, broken windows and bullet-scarred walls gave the plaza a gruesome aspect. Within the Diligencia Hotel there were forty Americans, most of them women, who had been there since the commencement of hostilities. When the square was taken they were immediately notified that they might go on the Spanish cruiser Carlos V. outside the breakwater in order to give the Prairie room to fire her guns. The Spanish commander refused, saying that he dared not maneuver his boat in so small a space at night. He also declared that he needed to take on a supply of fresh water. Admiral Fletcher insisted yesterday that his order be carried out, and the Carlos V. moved outside just before the attack on the center of the city began.

At 10:08 Wednesday morning the Americans were in undisputed possession of all the city except the southwest quarter, in which the barracks are situated, and a few outlying districts. At noon they had taken

the barracks. When the city prison, which faces the main plaza, was captured, Lieutenant-Commander Buchanan of the Florida made an inspection tour through it. There was great surprise among the Mexicans who had gathered there that the prisoners were not released. They had been accustomed to seeing the victor always release prisoners and then impress them all into his army.

Chief of Police Captured.

Chief of Police Antonio Villa Vincencio was taken prisoner by the Americans shortly after they had occupied the main plaza of the city. It was suggested to him that he continue in his official capacity to direct the city's protective system. He took the question under advisement. Had the frightened mayor made up his mind to accede to Admiral Fletcher's suggestion, which was made through Consul Canada, the Mexicans might have been spared the humiliation of being forced from their positions and undoubtedly a number of lives would not have been sacrificed.

When Admiral Fletcher directed that battalions of bluejackets and marines be landed from Rear Admiral Badger's ships before dawn and be drawn up in the plaza before the railroad station, thence to proceed to take the entire town, he acted only after warning and after 15 shells from the Prairie's three-inch guns had been thrown into the steel framework of the new market, which faces Market place. A persistent but scattered fire came from rifles in the market during all the early hours of the morning, and Admiral Badger's men landed to the accompaniment of rifle bullets over their heads.

Uniforms Dyed With Rust.

When the rush started Admiral Badger's bluejackets, clad in orange colored clothing, made for them on the trip down by dyeing white uniforms with iron rust, moved in close column formation up the water front, past the market and across the front of the naval college, a long, three story structure built of adobe and having a tile roof. The column moved steadily forward until the first company had passed beyond the college and the remainder were covering the whole front close against the wall.

Suddenly a spatter of rifle firing broke out. Flashes from the rifles were plainly visible in the upper windows of the college and along the roofs. The jacks stopped their ground pluckly. Some of them huddled close to the wall to avoid the rain of steel-jacketed bullets from above, while others dashed across a small open space directly in front of the building. These bluejackets dropped on their stomachs and lifted their rifles high to get a range on the windows above. Finally the American officers hustled their men either forward or backward until they were in the shelter of nearby buildings.

Men in Front Undaunted.

The jacks in front held their places, however, and the Prairie sent shell after shell from her three-inch battery into the windows of the college; huge columns of red dust leaped upward as each shot went home. The Chester also joined in, and with a roar her six-inch shells tore great gaps in the roof of the college. Far to the right of the harbor the mine ship San Francisco opened with her five-inch guns, and, taking the front of the college, shot out window after window, planting the shells with the precision of target practice.

After 15 minutes of firing the Prairie and the San Francisco ceased and the column of jacks formed again and pushed ahead, deploying around the front of the college. A few shots were directed at them, but none came from the college. The Chester continued hurling shells into any building in which snipers lurked and also far out into the suburbs.

The jacks went ahead without faltering, spreading out through the waterfront sections, seizing the highest buildings and organizing squads of guards at street intersections.

The fire along the front gradually slackened and then died out, but the Chester sent a few shots into the hills before ceasing. The Hancock, with 700 marines on board, and the battleship Michigan arrived too late to participate in the fighting.

Wounded and prisoners were taken aboard the Prairie until the arrival of the Solace, about noon.

Vera Cruz Thoroughly Cowed.

Conditions in Vera Cruz began to take on a normal aspect Thursday. Some of the restaurants were opened and a considerable part of the native population began to appear in the streets inspecting the damage done. There were no expressions of good will for the Americans, but there was no apparent antagonism. The Mexicans here seem thoroughly cowed and appear to accept with passiveness the presence of the foreign forces.

SENATORS OFFER TO ENLIST

Fall, New Mexico, and Sheppard, Texas, Tender Services.

Washington.—Senators Fall of New Mexico and Sheppard of Texas have written the president offering their services in the operations against Mexico. Senator Weeks of Massachusetts already had volunteered.

Senator Fall wrote that he was ready to resign from the senate and go to the front.

Senator Williams of Mississippi, who made a speech in the senate Tuesday opposing war with Mexico, had written to the president asking that his son, Robert Webb Williams, be appointed a second lieutenant in the volunteer service.

All offers have been sent to the war department.

WOMAN COULD NOT SIT UP

Now Does Her Own Work. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Helped Her.

Ironton, Ohio.—"I am enjoying better health now than I have for twelve years. When I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I could not sit up. I had female troubles and was very nervous. I used the remedies a year and I can do my work and for the last eight months I have worked for other women, too. I cannot praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound enough for I know I never would have been as well if I had not taken it and I recommend it to suffering women."



Daughter Helped Also. "I gave it to my daughter when she was thirteen years old. She was in school and was a nervous wreck, and could not sleep nights. Now she looks so healthy that even the doctor speaks of it. You can publish this letter if you like."—Mrs. RENA BOWMAN, 161 S. 10th Street, Ironton, Ohio.

Why will women continue to suffer day in and day out and drag out a sickly, half-hearted existence, missing three-fourths of the joy of living, when they can find health in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound?

If you have the slightest doubt that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will help you, write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (Confidential) Lynn, Mass., for advice. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

Titta Ruffo's Important Views. A piece of baked macaroni trying to stand upright. That is the definition of the modern American woman given to a Denver newspaper reporter by Titta Ruffo of the Chicago Grand Opera company.

"It is like a piece of cooked macaroni making effort to stand upright," he said with an air of disgust. "In Eet-aly the women are beeg. Only beeg women are beautiful. "The American woman is very chic and it is good for her to be a suffragette. It is nice for woman to rule man in America. In Eet-aly it is not so nice."

Constipation causes and seriously aggravates many diseases. It is thoroughly cured by Dr. Pierce's Peppets. Tiny sugar-coated granules. Adv.

What He Wanted. "My wife insists on having a flying machine."

"We have some that are perfectly safe, sir."

"Have you one that will fly at an altitude of about ten inches?"

Makes the laundress happy—that's Red Cross Rag Blue. Makes beautiful, clear white clothes. All good grocers. Adv.

Correct.

"Ah," he said rapturously, as they danced, "I feel as though I were gliding on velvet." "You are," she replied, taking a tighter grip on her skirt.—New York World.

Housework Is a Burden

It's hard enough to keep house if in perfect health, but a woman who is weak, tired and suffering from an aching back has a heavy burden.

Any woman in this condition has good cause to suspect kidney trouble, especially if the kidney action seems disordered.

Doan's Kidney Pills have cured thousands of suffering women. It's the best recommended special kidney remedy.

A NORTH DAKOTA CASE

Mrs. C. J. Tyler, Cando, N. D., says: "For years I had kidney trouble. My feet and I'm a weak and I was all the time. In the morning I was all worn out. My back was lame and I had sharp pains when I stooped. Doan's Kidney Pills have removed all this trouble."

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